

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020032-1

COMINT

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

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SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CIA/ OCT

DATE-TIME GROUP

10UH1Z 740212

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/NHSS

SOURCE REF:

25X1A

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR McMANIS

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER FOR MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 6 25X1A

DATE: 12 FEB 74

SUBJECT: SYRIAN SHELLINGS COULD HEAD TO ISRAELI RETALIATION

REF: :

ISRAEL MAY BE PLANNING

TO TAKE STRONG RETALIATORY ACTION IN RESPONSE TO SYRIAN SHELLINGS  
OF ISRAELI CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS ON FEBRUARY

11.

THE ISRAELI PRESS CLAIMS THAT THE THREE-HOUR SYRIAN  
BARRAGE ALONG THE ENTIRE FRONT YESTERDAY WAS ONE OF THE HEAVIEST  
SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR, AND INCLUDED THE SHELLING OF ISRAELI  
SETTLEMENTS THERE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE. TWO ISRAELIS WERE  
KILLED, INCLUDING ONE CIVILIAN, AND FIVE SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED.

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

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ONE SETTLEMENT WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED.

ISRAELI OFFICERS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE SYRIAN FIRE WAS PERFECTLY COORDINATED AND TIMED TO CATCH THE SETTLERS BY SURPRISE AND BEFORE THEY COULD SEEK COVER. ISRAELI COMMENTATORS SUGGESTED THAT THIS SHOWED DAMASCUS HAD MADE DELIBERATE DECISION TO INFILCT MAXIMUM CASUALTIES. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI PRESS.

25X1 THE

ATTACKS VIOLATED A TACIT SYRIAN-ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING WHEREBY TEL AVIV REFRAINED FROM RETALIATORY AIR STRIKES AS LONG AS DAMASCUS LIMITED ITS ATTACKS TO MILITARY TARGETS. THE PRESS SUGGESTED THAT ISRAEL MIGHT NOW RESPOND BY SHELLING DAMASCUS AIRPORT OR BY CONDUCTING AIR RAIDS ON SYRIAN MILITARY POSITIONS.

THE ISRAELI PRESS SPECULATES THAT DAMASCUS MAY HAVE LAUNCHED THE ATTACKS IN RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER MEIR'S RECENT STATEMENTS ABOUT ISRAEL'S RETENTION OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND TO PRESS REPORTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT PLANS TO START BUILDING A NEW CITY THERE. OTHER REPORTS SPECULATE IT MAY REPRESENT SYRIAN MUSCLE-FLEXING PREPARATORY TO MOVING TOWARD A DISENGAGEMENT

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AGREEMENT.

TEL AVIV HAS SHOWN SOME RESTRAINT IN THE PAST IN THE FACE OF SYRIAN SHELLINGS. CONTINUED ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY RESULT IN MORE ISRAELI CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN A LIFTING OF THESE SELF-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS. THIS, IN TURN, COULD LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING BY BOTH SIDES INVOLVING PERHAPS HEAVY ARTILLERY EXCHANGES AND AIR STRIKES. E2 IMPDET.H

ESPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV.

25X1A

4  
3  
2  
1

DATE: 12 FEB 74      ORIG: UHSS      UNIT: CTA OPERATIONS CTR  
 EXT: 25X1A  
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